

determining a type of the received input object;

A<sup>1</sup> based on the determined type, ascertaining whether the received input object satisfies one or more predefined requirements; and

when it is ascertained that the received input object satisfies each predefined requirement, executing the input function on a computer.

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11. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an output object, comprising:

a computer;

A<sup>2</sup> one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving an input object, wherein the received input object contains input data and one input function executable on a computer, determining a type of the received input object, based on the determined type, ascertaining whether the received input object satisfies one or more predefined requirements, and when it is ascertained that the received input object satisfies each predefined requirement, executing the input function on a computer.

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A<sup>3</sup> 14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus further comprises one or more computer programs executing on the computer for producing an output object by using a result produced by the executed input function.

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A<sup>4</sup> 21. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for producing an output object, the method comprising the steps of: